

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 5 and 7 have been rejected as being anticipated by Winder. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 5 recites features of a universal collar that are not shown in Winder. Claim 5 has been amended and now recites, *inter alia*, a universal collar having a body including “a top edge, said top edge defining a locating recess..., said recess being axially spaced from said flanges ..., and wherein said flanges define notches on a side of the universal collar...” The Office Action identifies element 46 as *both* a recess and a notch, but since the two elements 46 are the same (see Fig. 6 of Winder), element 46 is not both a recess axially spaced from the flanges *and* a notch defined by a flange.

Moreover, claim 5 recites “wherein said flanges define notches on a side of the universal collar.” Winder does not show this. The Examiner has identified a first flange 52 and a second flange 58.* But, the text and figures of Winder teach that flange 52 does *not* define a notch. Reviewing Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 9 together, it is clear that element 52 is an unbroken *annular flange*. See also, column 4, line 2, which defines element 52 as an annular flange (“the upper surface 51 of the annular flange 52...”). Thus, Winder does not teach “wherein said flanges define notches...” The Examiner has identified element 46 as the notch, but element 46 is not defined by or in flange 52. Rather, element 46 is an upwardly-opening slot in the upper cylindrical portion 44 of upper element 26, which is an entirely different structure from flange 52. See, column 3, lines 46-49:

As may be seen particularly from FIG. 6, the upper element 26 comprises an upper cylindrical portion 44 which has diametrically-located upwardly-opening slots 46 formed therein...

With respect to claim 7, no part of Winder’s top edge 44 circumscribes a portion of the container 16. Applicants appreciate that the claim does not positively recite the container, but the Applicants maintain that the relationship between the collar and the container is useful in defining the structure of the collar, as “the present invention relates to a universal collar that

* Given the number of, and amount of space between, the “discontinuous protrusions 58” (column 4, line 14; Fig. 6), element 58 hardly constitutes a flange. But, given the structural distinctions between flange 52 and the flange as defined in the claims, and addressed *infra*, the Applicants need not rely on this observation to distinguish the reference.

may be attached to the container and allow the container to be inserted in multiple dispenser housings, despite any keying systems associated with those housings.” (See, Field of the Invention, page 1, lines 9-11). The Examiner has identified portion 31 as being part of container 18. However, portion 31 is a groove in valve mechanism 18 (See, column 3, lines 22-26; *see also*, Fig. 4). And as best seen in Fig. 5, Winder’s top edge 44 is on the valve mechanism 18 side and does not circumscribe a portion of container 16.

Thus, Winder does not teach a universal collar as defined in the claims. Accordingly, claims 5 and 7 are believed allowable over Winder.

Claims 2 and 5-7 have been rejected as being anticipated by Taljaard. Applicants respectfully disagree. Both independent claim 2 and claim 5 recite features not shown in Taljaard.

Claim 2 defines a universal collar comprising a body having a first flange and a second flange, and recites “wherein said flanges are connected on a forward side of the universal collar by a vertically extending rib, and wherein said flanges define notches on a side of the universal collar opposite said rib.” Taljaard does not teach this. The Office Action identifies “a first flange as is the front portion of 46 abutting 62” and “a second flange 54.”[†] However, those flanges are not connected by a rib. The Office Action writes “which ribs connect the flanges by mating with 66 to thereby hold the flange portions together and connect them as claimed...”, but Taljaard’s “rib” 64 does not connect flanges at 46 and 54. The Applicants do not agree that the combination of ribs 64 and grooves 66 constitute a rib, but in any event, such does not connect the flanges at 46 and 54, at least because of the interruption of ridge 62 of tubular section 42.

Moreover, the flanges of Taljaard do not define notches. Regarding the flange in 46 the Office Action identifies “notch 62 at the base of the front portion of flange 64...”[‡] However, Fig. 3 clearly shows that 46 does not define a notch, and Taljaard explicitly teaches that element 62

[†] The Applicants note that Taljaard, at page 2, lines 26-29, states: “The mount 40 has a collar 52 which includes a non-circular circumferential groove 54 which fits into a correspondingly shaped cut-out 56 in a cardboard outer container 58.” Thus, where the Office Action refers to flange 54, Applicants interpret this as referring to one of the walls of collar 52 as a flange.

[‡] The Office Action at page 3 states “...and notch 62 at the base of the front portion of flange 64...” Having previously identified the first flange as “is the front portion of 46 abutting 62”, the Applicants believe the Examiner is referring to the flange of 46, rather than 64.

is a ridge formed in tubular section 42. *See*, page 2, lines 32-52. Regarding the other flange, the Office Action identifies “notches (66) in 60...” However, the grooves 66 are not defined by flange 54, which the Office Action has identified as the second flange. Thus, Taljaard does not flanges defined by the notches, as required by the claim.

Regarding claim 5, it similarly recites “wherein said flanges define notches on a side of the universal collar.” As argued with respect to claim 2, Taljaard does not teach notches defined by the flange of 46.

Also, claim 5 recites “wherein said body includes a top edge, said top edge defining a locating recess for receipt of a projection on the container, said recess being axially spaced from said flanges and having a base and a pair of upstanding sides, wherein said sides are circumferentially spaced from each other for receipt of the projection therebetween.” The Office Action identifies collar 52 and its non-circular circumferential groove 54 as the claimed “top edge.” The Applicants respectfully disagree that the entire structure of collar 52 constitutes a top edge, but in any event, the walls of the collar 52 are not circumferentially spaced, as required by the claim. Rather, they are axially spaced, as best seen in Figs. 3 and 4.

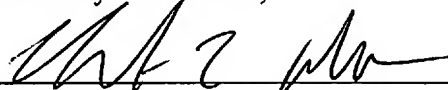
Thus, Taljaard does not teach a universal collar as defined in claims 2 and 5.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

In the event that any fees are due with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,



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